

My name is Steven Landin. I live at 26 Main Street, Newtown, Connecticut. As a concerned citizen I am opposed to no excuse absentee balloting in Connecticut for the following reasons:

1. Voters have already spoken on this issue when they rejected a change in the Connecticut Constitution that would have allowed no excuse absentee balloting in 2014.
2. The Democratic majority might have successfully placed a Constitutional amendment on the 2022 ballot regarding this issue if they had been willing to agree with the Republican minority to add ID requirements and signature matching. It is baffling to me why Democrats oppose these logical additions. Isn't protecting the integrity of an election ballot sacrosanct? Don't we use ID for almost everything else in our lives?
3. Absentee ballots should only be available upon request by an eligible voter, in my opinion. Sending absentee ballots to every voter at their last known address is inefficient and invites fraud. This action flies in the face of election integrity. By tracking every vote you insure the power of my vote is not diluted by illegal votes. You cannot assure me of that if the voter roles are not purged regularly and identification is not required.
4. No excuse absentee balloting creates two classes of citizens. I cannot vote in Newtown without showing my driver's license. But you are permitting those who vote by mail to ignore this requirement.
5. Drop boxes are another concern. In Georgia, drop boxes were videoed 24 hours a day. This revealed serious chain of custody problems. Investigation further revealed that over 200 people returned again and again with ballots and they were paid for each ballot by a third party. How can you insure that that is not happening with our drop boxes?
6. Finally, why do we treat our Constitution with such disdain? Temporary changes that are not legal but claimed to be necessary under a suspect extension of Emergency powers are ill advised. There is a reason it takes a super majority in the House to attempt to start the process to amend the Constitution. This rule distinguishes us from an authoritarian state which changes its constitution on a whim.

Thank you for your time.